

The Path to Transformation – 1115 Medicaid Waiver Comments

ANA-Illinois and Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing appreciate the opportunity to offer comment to the 1115 Medicaid Waiver application. First and foremost, nursing has long supported healthcare initiatives that are patient focused and outcome driven so we support this waiver but offer a few general comments. These comments include:

- Nursing applauds the use of the term “patient centered health home” and we urge the continued use of this versus “medical home”. This terminology is less about who provides the care and more about a model of integrated care that is patient focused and driven by outcomes.
- Although nursing understands and supports the need to transition hospitals and health systems into a modern service model, we recognize this will mean downsizing or closing some or all of their facilities with the goal of establishing rural hubs. Often times it is the nurse who has the ‘finger on the pulse’ of patients’ needs, yet it is physicians and hospital administrators who make these decisions without collaboration with their nursing colleagues. I urge you to not to lose sight of the important role nursing can play in this process and our ability to focus in a patient-centric manner as you strive to preserve our “safety net”.
- In the building of a 21st Century Health Care Workforce we must acknowledge the barriers that still exist to full scope of practice for both APN and RN care. RNs are in perfect position to facilitate care coordination in both hospitals and community settings. We hope that the State will collaborate with nursing in a truly effective

manner to actualize full practice authority in the near future. The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (ihac) is currently developing a survey for APNs in the state. With over 8400 advanced practice nurses in Illinois, APNs represent a powerful force in Illinois health care system. Our goal is to gather the workforce data necessary to drive legislation that will lead to full practice authority for APNs and the full implementation of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's Consensus Model for APRN Regulation. The Consensus Model provides guidance for states to adopt uniformity in the regulation of advanced practice nursing roles. As long as regulatory requirements differ from state to state, each state border represents an obstacle to portability—potentially preventing access to professionals and access to care. Illinois currently only meets 16 of the 28 major components of the Consensus Model. If Illinois adopts the regulatory requirements for licensure, accreditation, certification and education for APRNs, as outlined in the Consensus Model, the benefits will be far-reaching for health care professionals, regulators and consumers.

- Nursing agrees that we must expand the primary care capacity in Illinois and the reinstatement of the State Loan Repayment program is essential to achieve that goal. We support this effort and will work with the state in whatever manner to make this happen.
- Our last comment is related to the role of the registered nurse in the supervision and delegation to the community health worker. We recognize that these individuals are often trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables community health workers to

serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between the nurse, who is positioned as the ideal care coordinator and the community they serve. We must establish a system with clear boundaries and reporting mechanism so that every person on the health care team is aware of their responsibilities to providing quality care with positive outcomes.

Thank you again for giving us this opportunity to provide feedback.

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